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studies of three other authorities find it to vary from 11s. to 14s. in Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Gloucestershire. In many cases, a peasant gets only 8s. a week. In spite of these low wages, he is often rackrented.

The worst feature of all is the loss of freedom. "A man must not think for himself in a village. If he does, he invites beggary" (p. 88). "For the ordinary cottager to complain to the landlord, agent, or sanitary authority, is to court immediate eviction" (p. 175). The English agricultural labor is "the worst used and least bold in Europe."

There are different laws and associations for the elevation of the condition of English peasants, such as the Rural Magna Charta of 1894, Housing Act, Small Holding Act, National Land and Home League, etc., but the poor peasant can scarcely take advantage of them. He has not enough capital to start a farm under the Small Holding Act. If he has, he can scarcely make his application reach the proper authority through the intricacies of officialdom. In the case of failure, which is frequent, he is evicted. The very thought of such a fate naturally makes him timid and he bears his miseries silently.

The Land and the Commonwealth. By T. E. MARKS. London: P. S. King & Son, 1913. 8vo, pp. xxv+314. 5s.

The time is quite opportune for the appearance of books on the English land system, and this is only one of the many that have recently passed through the English press. Excepting perhaps the Irish Home Rule Bill, there is today no question of more vital importance to the English public than the land reform scheme of Mr. Lloyd George. Some of Mr. Marks's suggestions as to the reform are quite in harmony with the intentions of the British Chancellor of Exchequer. The author handles the subject ably and interestingly, with opulence of information and mastery of detail.

From an economic consideration of the land system Mr. Marks concludes that the sport and pleasure of landlords are detrimental to the interests of the farmers and the prosperity of the nation. The unmitigated sufferings of agricultural laborers and the unjust and unnecessary restrictions on farmers are the real causes of rural depopulation. The monopoly and oppression of private landlordship obstruct the social and industrial development of rural and urban people alike. The injustice of large private estates and of the present leasehold and rating systems, and the disadvantages of estates held under settlements, trust indentures, and mortgages are discussed in great detail. Almost all the land laws of the past and some of even recent dates have been enacted to secure the interests of landlords; and though the last thirty years have seen numerous parliamentary acts for the protection of rural and urban tenants and for the betterment of their condition, inadequate administration, mostly through interested persons, has not brought full benefit to the persons concerned. The

remedy lies in the establishment of Land Courts for the judicial fixing of rents. But the real reform which the author advocates consists in the gradual acquisition of land by the state at fair prices.

The Old Fashioned Woman. By ELSIE CLEWS PARSONS. New York: Putnam, 1913. 8vo, pp. vii+373. \$1.50 net.

The author seeks in this book to trace and define the links that bind present-day customs and habits of thought in regard to women with primitive customs and habits of thought.

It may startle the modern woman and her champions and her opponents to discover how like she is to the old-fashioned woman in much that marks her position in society, and to realize that many of our most deeply ingrained traditions as well as our most seemingly artificial conventionalities are but survivals of primitive notions which, modified in one way or another, have come down through the centuries. The instinctively apologetic attitude toward girl babies, the exaggerated prominence of the young girl as she approaches marriageable age, the importance of the mother, but the necessity of repressing her that she may feminize neither men nor society, the more exacting standards for women than for men in all the properties of life, woman's subordination to man in family, religious, social, political, and industrial relations, all these social attitudes and customs may be illustrated from both early and modern life. The examples and comparisons in the book, drawn from every age and every land, show the widest of ethnological study, and form a real contribution to one phase of our knowledge of social origins.

The author may indeed be "forgiven for adding to the already disproportionate bibliography on woman," especially as she dares occasionally to lift the veil of solemnity with which most writers feel it necessary to enshroud the subject. It is to be doubted, however, if even "this ethnological inkling of themselves" will serve to alter the views of either feminist or anti-feminist or to reconcile their differences. The one will emphasize the folly of habits of thought bred in ancient days; the other will feel that age-long and apparently instinctive practice dignifies his creed.

The Origin of Property. By JAN ST. LEWIŃSKI. London: Constable & Co., Ltd., 1913. 8vo, pp. xi+71. 3s. 6d. net.

Within the compass of this little book Mr. Lewiński draws together the results of some very significant investigations into the origin of private property. No pretense is made at fulness of detail. However, the copious footnotes indicate to the reader the wealth of literature dealing with the development of the forms of land holding. The references include such standard works as Sir Henry Maine's *Village Communities in the East and West*, Baden-Powell's *Land Tenure in India*, E. de Laveleye's *De la propriété et ses formes*